

Latex allergy organizations and support groups across this Nation have successfully established a State Latex Allergy Awareness Week in several States. I believe once this awareness of this disease increases, our Nation will see with sincere satisfaction the positive results from research and care for those who suffer from its effects. Hopefully, next year as this same time approaches, both Houses will see fit to declare this week National Latex Allergy Awareness Week.

Mr. Speaker, I close by thanking Mr. and Mrs. Clark and Jimmy for stepping up to the plate to help make Americans more aware of a health problem and a societal need. They embody the real spirit of democracy: if not I, then who? If not then, when? I thank both Jimmy and his parents and say to them that River Forest as well as all of America are proud of them.

ISSUES OF CONCERN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to speak on several unrelated but very important topics. First I want to quote from an Associated Press story of a few days ago: "A billion-dollar-a-year air war forgotten by the outside world but droning on over dusty Iraqi towns does not appear to be getting Washington any closer to its ultimate goal of ousting President Saddam Hussein."

The Associated Press story said that we have dropped 1,400 bombs and missiles on Iraq since mid-December in this forgotten war. A forgotten war that is doing no good, wasting more than \$2.6 million each day, bombing people who could be our friends, but instead making new enemies for the United States each and every day. A billion-dollar-a-year air war that is wasteful, useless, inhumane, and according to the Associated Press, not accomplishing its goal.

Second, I want to mention another ridiculously wasteful project. A few days ago NASA lost a \$125 million Mars orbiter because one engineering team used metric units while another used English units for a key spacecraft operation. If this had happened in the private sector, heads would have rolled. However, when it happens with taxpayer money done by totally protected civil servants and big government contractors, no one is really held accountable.

We see over and over and over again that the Federal Government is unable to do anything in an economical, efficient, low-cost manner. Because it is other people's money, they really just do not care. If we want our money to be wasted, just turn it over to Federal bureaucrats. They will be paid regardless

of how bad a job they do and at a rate that is about 50 percent higher than the average citizen for whom they are supposed to be working.

Today we just cavalierly lose a \$125 million machine because we have a government that is of, by, and for the bureaucrats instead of one that is of, by, and for the people.

Third, Mr. Speaker, let me mention the scandalous grant of clemency to the 16 Puerto Rican terrorists responsible for 130 bombings. These bombings killed six people. They left six people dead, and maimed and injured 84 others. One New York City policeman lost his leg and one lost his sight and has 20 pins holding his head together, and the President and the Department of Justice are refusing to give congressional committees the information and papers leading to these grants of clemency. What are they trying to hide?

Senator ORRIN HATCH, a Member of the other body and chairman of its Committee on the Judiciary said, "The Justice Department today is run by people who do not care about the law." The grants of clemency were given against the advice of every law enforcement agency asked about them.

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Three examples, Mr. Speaker, of a Federal Government that is simply too big and out of control and wasting billions of hard-earned tax dollars each and every day.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, one other concern I have does not deal with Federal Government wasteful spending, but is it possible that many people are spending money in a harmful way on Ritalin.

I mentioned once before on this floor that a retired high-level Drug Enforcement Agency official wrote in the Knoxville News-Sentinel last year that Ritalin is prescribed six times as much in the United States as in any other industrialized nation. He said that Ritalin has the same properties, basically, as some of the most addictive drugs there are.

Now I read in Time Magazine that production of Ritalin has increased sevenfold in the past 8 years and that 90 percent of it is consumed in the United States. Time Magazine said, "the growing availability of the drug raises the fear of the abuse: more teenagers try Ritalin by grinding it up and snorting it for \$5 a pill than get it by prescription."

Also, I read in Insight magazine that almost all these teenage school shooters in recent years have been boys who were on at the time or had recently been on Ritalin or some similar mind-altering drug.

Now, I believe there are some people for whom Ritalin has been good. But I also read that it is almost always given to boys who have both parents working full time.

I am simply asking if it is a good thing to give such a strong drug to so

many, or is it simply a way for a big drug company to make huge profits. Why 90 percent in the United States? Why do we have at least six times as much of this prescribed in the U.S. as any other industrialized nation?

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that parents, teachers, doctors and everyone else will not be so eager to turn to Ritalin, which is really a potentially dangerous addictive drug and will use it only as an absolute last resort.

NATIONAL DEFENSE IS IN BAD SHAPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today, the President signed the defense bill and he gave, in signing the defense bill, a speech in which I think he gave a dangerously false message to the American people. That message was that defense is in good shape.

Defense is not in good shape. We are \$3.5 billion short on ammunition for the Army. We are \$193 million short on ammunition for the Marine Corps. We have 10,000 uniformed families on food stamps because they are about 13 percent under the wages of their counterparts in the civilian sector.

Our aircraft are in such bad shape that only about 65 percent of them can get off the ground and go do their mission. Our Navy now is lacking 18,000 sailors because we cannot get sailors to join Mr. Clinton's Navy. We are about 800 pilots short in the Air Force, and it costs millions of dollars to train a pilot, and it takes a long time. If the balloon goes up and we have a war, we are not going to be ready.

So the President has cut defense disastrously. His own Joint Chiefs, some of whom stood behind him in that press conference said that his budget was underfunded by about \$20 billion. The Air Force said they need an extra \$5 billion. The Navy said they need an extra \$6 billion a year, the Army an extra \$5 billion, and the Marine Corps an extra \$1.75 billion. On top of that, they need an extra \$2.5 billion a year to pay for the retirement and the wages that are necessary to keep good people in the service.

So the Clinton administration has dragged down national defense.

Now, Congress has added some money to the defense bill. We have added about \$50 billion over the last 6 years, but that is not enough. We have added as much as we thought we could add without getting the bill vetoed by President Clinton. Even then, he has threatened vetoes on a number of occasions.

But defense is in difficult condition. It is in bad shape. If we had to fight the two-war scenario, that is, if we had to fight on the Korean Peninsula and we